

REMARKS

The present application is a U.S. national stage application of PCT International Application No. PCT/JP2004/008797. The pending title corresponds to the title of the PCT Application. The title is amended to correspond to the title of the national stage application. In particular, the title is amended to specify "GENE INVOLVED IN GROWTH-PROMOTING FUNCTION OF ACETIC ACID BACTERIA AND USES THEREOF." Entry of this amendment is respectfully requested.

In the event the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office determines that an extension is required, Applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 referencing docket no. 1254-0301PUS1.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Linda T. Parker, Reg. No. 46,046, at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: DEC 31 2008

Respectfully submitted,

By 

Gerald M. Murphy, Jr.

Registration No.: 28,977

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

8110 Gatehouse Road

Suite 100 East

P.O. Box 747

Falls Church, Virginia 22040-0747

(703) 205-8000

Attorney for Applicant